

a script from
skitguys.com

"Fear Not! Hallmark's Here"

By
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What	<p>In this funny, heartwarming, and easy to stage skit, Alex is overcome with emotion after watching yet another Hallmark Christmas movie. His wife Jill, however, is overcome with the chaos of the season. In the end, they are reminded of the power of "Fear Not" from the angel's announcement of Christ's birth, and the message they take to set aside the frantic pace of the season and focus on what matters most.</p> <p>Themes: Christmas, Couples, Relationships, Holiday movies</p>
Who	<p>Alex Jill</p>
When	<p>Modern day</p>
Costumes	<p>Contemporary clothing</p>
Props	<p>2 chairs Roll of Christmas wrapping paper Small table Small digital TV with remote Cell phone</p>
Why	<p>Isaiah 41:10</p>
How	<p>The TV sits on the table at center stage. The two chairs face the audience, and are behind the TV, so that the TV screen is turned towards the chairs and away from the audience. The remote is on the table. The roll of wrapping paper lays on the floor behind the chairs.</p>
Time	<p>4 minutes</p>

Alex and Jill are sitting in chairs facing the TV which is turned away from audience. Jill is texting on her phone.

Alex: *(staring at TV silently, as if he's seen something significant, trembling voice, sniffing)* Oh my, I never saw that coming. What an ending. I'm, I'm speechless *(sniffing again)*

Jill: *(looks up from her phone, flat)* Oh, it's over?

Alex: *(ignoring her, pointing at the TV)* I... I thought those two would never be able to work it out, but Christmas magic happens again, and is alive and well. *(sniffing again, gesturing at the TV again)*. I am not worthy, dear Hallmark channel!

Jill: *(annoyed)* What? *(refers to TV)* You bought that story?

Alex: *(defending)* What's not to buy? This one had it all! *She* was disillusioned about the holidays because *she* was so busy in the corporate world and on her way to a conference, she finds herself in *his* small town where he's a widower *and* the town's carpenter *and* the father of a young boy who's lost their ability to speak. There was the clumsy and uncomfortable first encounter between the two, then the bonding over her rediscovered ability to make Christmas cookies. Then the miscommunication at his families' Christmas celebration, then... then... *(stifling emotion again)*

Jill: *(eye roll)* Oh brother.

Alex: *(ignores)* The... the little boy could talk after all and reads the Christmas story...you know, the *(finger quotes)* "The shepherds watching their folks by night" one from TV. He... he reads it at the church's Christmas play and they realize what Christmas is all about and they were meant for each other and she opens a bakery and... and... *(more dramatic sniffing and light crying)*

Jill: Ummm, you know it was just a movie, right?

Alex: *(starting to compose himself)* I.. I know, and I know. You know me, a big softy when it comes to Christmas. *(quiet, then choking up again, pointing at the TV)* That little boy...

Jill: Ohhhh kay, let's turn this off *(points the remote at the TV and presses a button)*

Alex: *(recovering, deep breaths)* OK, OK. I'm... I'm good now.

Jill: *(tired)* Now that's over, we still need to get all the cards done, finish the decorations here *(gestures around her)* make sure the tree gets up in time, wrap the gifts, get the kid's costumes for their play done, plus all I have to do at work right now with the year-end reports, zoom calls, corporate meetings, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

Alex: Now wait, don't forget... I can help with some of the Christmas stuff. Remember, you gave me that spreadsheet with the tasks listed out in different colors and categories to keep me focused.

Jill: *(opens hands in inquiry)* And?

Alex: *(sheepishly)* Umm, er... I'll let you know when I find it.

Jill: *(frustrated)* Alex-

Alex: I did buy the Christas cookies!

Jill: *(flat)* Great. *(looks at watch and starts to get up)* OK, I got to-

Alex: Wait.

Jill: *(stays frozen, half out of her chair)* I already took too much time watching that movie-

Alex: *(quiet, a bit hurt)* You weren't watching it. You were texting the whole time.

Jill: *(pauses, then collapses back into the chair).* OK, fine. *(she looks at her watch again)* Talk to me.

Alex: *(sighs)* Well, sometimes I feel like when I talk you don't hear me. I told you I wanted us to watch it together so we—you—could get more into the Christmas spirit.

Jill: *(sarcastic, still tired)* I *am* in the Christmas spirit. Fully immersed in it! My Christmas spirit is a to do list that is never ending.

Alex: That's not what I mean.

Jill: *(more defeated voice)* Well, that's all the Christmas spirit is to me now.

Alex: *(pained)* Jill.

Jill: *(quiet, pause)* I didn't mean that. Look. I'm... I'm trying. *(pause)* And you were wrong.

Alex: Huh?

Jill: I wasn't texting the *whole* time.

Alex: *(gentle sarcasm)* Really?

Jill: There was that scene-

Alex: *(interrupts, excited)* You mean the scene when the town's mayor asked the carpenter dad to fix the town's nativity, and she helped and they bonded rebuilding the manger and then adopted that stray dog and-

Jill: *(holds up her hand, stopping him)* Uh, no. Actually *that* was probably when I was, you know... *(she then imitates texting).*

Alex: *(disappointed)* Oh. *(pause)* Well, what scene then?

Jill: *(grudgingly admitting)* The little boy. Doing the Christmas speech.

Alex: *(slightly surprised)* Oh.

Jill: *(thinking, more to herself)* I'll admit, it got to me a bit. *(pause, reflecting)* "Fear not."

Alex: *(finishing)* "For behold I bring you good news of great joy--"

Jill: *(gently to him)* I know the rest. It's that *(finger air quotes)* "fear not" part. Big question, I know, but how do you *not* fear?

Alex: What do you mean?

Jill: *(pausing again, then)* Maybe all this stuff I'm doing is because I'm *afraid* it won't get done.

Alex: *(empathetic)* Hmmm.

Jill: Then if it doesn't get done, I don't...I don't have, like, any peace.

Alex: Peace?

Jill: *(quiet)* Yeah. So much going on. Seems like it's all chaos, especially this time of year *(a pause, Alex hasn't responded)* The tyranny of the urgent. Activity but no peace. *(pause)* Anyway. *(pausing, gets uncomfortable then)* OK, I need to get going. *(starts to get up again)*

Alex: Wait, please. *(she pauses, then sits)*

Alex: I like the scripture that the boy quotes, too. And I think the angel was, yes, telling the shepherds not to be afraid, but I think it's also a message to us. If God tells us not to fear, it means that He'll also provide the peace, the comfort, and hope we need. That we are enough.

Jill: *(not entirely convinced)* Hmmm.

Alex: I guess I've always seen Christmas as a reminder.

Jill: Huh?

Alex: A reminder that we're going to, well... be OK. Yeah, there's a lot of stuff going on, for sure. But despite all of that, it's a season focused on finding real peace. And hope. *(Jill stays quiet, pause)* And to start, maybe we put down the to-do lists, and, well... just breathe.

Jill: Yes, maybe so. *(pause, sincere)* Thanks. *(points to the TV, playfully)*. Maybe these movies aren't so bad after all.

Alex: *(excited)* Right?! *(being funny now)* How's this sound going forward? You quit your job and start a bakery after we adopt a stray dog but first we'll go see the kid's Christmas play then all watch an old Christmas special, then go to the town's nativity-

Jill: *(slight laugh)* OK, OK, just give me some time.

Alex: Of course! Hallmark does it again! *(points remote at TV, presses a button)* Hey, looks like another one is on. I love the title! *(quoting off the screen)* "Mistletoe Mixup in Christmasville"!

Jill: Well, you enjoy that, while I'm going to do something practical. Where's the wrapping paper anyway?

Alex gestures behind him. **Jill** goes, finds the paper and starts looking it over, but then stops and starts slowly looking at the TV. She then slowly drifts back to where **Alex** is.

Jill: *(still looking at screen)* I'm going to start wrapping... *(slowly sits down)*... soon. *(pause, still watching for a few beats)* Do you think those two will make it?

Alex: *(smiles)* Fear not, honey, I have a good feeling about them. *(they exchange glances, Alex gestures to TV)* Hallmark, take us away!

Curtain.